

ROCKLIN HAS A NEW ALARM ORDINANCE

NOTE: Our link for obtaining an Alarm Permit and activating your online account will be available through this link on April 11th, 2008, when the Alarm Ordinance becomes law.

Why do we need an Alarm Ordinance?

The Rocklin Police Department responded to more than 2,700 alarms during 2007, 99 % of which were false. We committed over 1,400 hours of our Police Officers time to these calls, which is equivalent to one Police Officer spending an entire year's time answering false alarm calls and doing nothing else. Burglary and Robbery alarms are high priority incidents requiring immediate deployment of a minimum of two patrol officers. False alarms impact the safety of the community by diverting officers and communications personnel from actual emergencies and other calls for service.

Who needs to get an Alarm Permit?

Any person or business which activates, operates, or maintains an alarm system upon any premises in the City of Rocklin. The Ordinance does not require that your alarm is monitored, simply that you have one and it is operational and in use, even if intermittently. If you NEVER use your alarm system that is installed in your residence or business, you do not need an Alarm Permit.

What if I rent a house/townhouse or lease a business location where there is an alarm?

The Alarm Ordinance requires the person who "operates" the alarm system to obtain the permit. The renter of a house or townhome and the business leasing the space would be responsible for obtaining the Alarm Permit, not the owner of the house or business location.

When does the Ordinance go into effect?

The ordinance becomes law on April 11th, 2008. Effective on that date, a resident or business is required to have an Alarm Permit before an alarm is installed and activated. The Alarm Company can also be in violation of the Ordinance if they activate the alarm without insuring the resident has obtained a permit.

Is there a grace period if I have an alarm already?

Residents and Businesses who already have an alarm installed in the City of Rocklin will have until September 1st, 2008 to obtain an Alarm Permit.

How do I get a permit and how much does it cost?

There are several convenient ways to obtain a permit. The easiest way is through the City of Rocklin website (www.rocklin.ca.gov). There will be a link on the main page and in the Police Department section of the City website (www.rocklin.ca.gov/government/police/default.asp). This link will take you to a user friendly interface where you can enter all of your information and pay by credit card. The cost of an Alarm Permit is \$25 for the first two years and \$15 for each two year renewal.

What if I do not get a permit?

If you operate an Alarm without a permit after September 1st, 2008, you can be fined \$100 in addition to any excessive alarm penalties.

Can I transfer a permit to a new owner or business?

Alarm Permits may not be transferred to another person or alarm site. Permits are valid only for the permittee and address listed on the permit.

Are there different types of Alarm classifications?

For the purposes of imposing civil penalties, alarm calls for service are classified in two ways by the Ordinance. The first classification is a *General* alarm, which would be the usual burglar alarm at a residence or business. The second classification is a *Holdup or Duress* alarm, which would be a manually activated alarm at a residence (panic alarm) or at a bank (robbery alarm).

How do the Civil Penalties work?

Each residence or business is given one free false alarm response in a rolling 12 month period, which begins when they obtain their Alarm Permit. For *General* false alarms, you are fined \$50 for the second response and \$100 for the third and subsequent responses during the 12 months. For *Holdup or Duress* alarms, you are fined \$100 for the second response and \$150 for the third and subsequent responses during the 12 months.

Are there any requirements for posting on the outside of businesses?

Every business maintaining an outside audible alarm shall post a notice containing the names and telephone numbers of the persons to be notified in order to render repairs and service or secure the premises during any hour of the day or night in the event that the alarm is activated. Such notice shall be posted near the alarm in such a position as to be legible from the ground level adjacent to the building where the alarm is located. The wording "Police Alarm – Call City of Rocklin Police Department" shall be placed on the alarm or immediately below the alarm device.

Does the Ordinance limit my Alarm sound?

The Alarm Ordinance makes it unlawful to install or use an alarm system which upon activation emits a sound similar to sirens in use on public emergency vehicles or for public disaster warning purposes.

Do I need a time limit for my audible alarm?

The Alarm Ordinance requires that all local exterior bell, gongs, noisemaking devices or pulsating lights shall have a timing device that will silence or turn off such devices or lights within fifteen (15) minutes following initial activation.

Are there any other features that I can use with my online account?

Once you obtain an Alarm Permit through the link on the City of Rocklin website, you can track incidents, payments, and manage your responsible contacts from your computer. The website feature also allows for a real-time update to our computer system at the Police Department. Say for example that you decide to go on vacation with all of the people listed as responsible contacts on your account you created when you obtained your permit. You can log on and change your responsible information for the weekend and the system will immediately update our computers at the Police Department. If your alarm goes off later that night, we would have the updated person to contact.

Can my permit be suspended?

Unless there is a separate indication that there is a crime in progress, the Chief of Police may reduce the priority or refuse police response to an alarm site after the denial, suspension or revocation of an alarm permit.

The following shall constitute grounds for denial, suspension and/or revocation of the alarm permit:

- A. Failure to pay fines and/or charges imposed as a result of excessive false alarms at any alarm site; or
- B. Failure to comply with standards or regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter; or
- C. Where the applicant, permittee, or the employee or agent of the applicant or permittee has knowingly made any false, misleading, or fraudulent statement of a material fact in the application for a permit or in any report or record required to be filed with any city agency.

Where can I see a copy of the Ordinance?

The Alarm Ordinance is # 928 and can be viewed by selecting the link on our main City of Rocklin webpage (www.rocklin.ca.gov) or in the Police Department section (www.rocklin.ca.gov/government/police/default.asp).

Is there a telephone number I can call for more information?

(866) 541-7626 is a telephone number that is dedicated to the City of Rocklin's Alarm Ordinance and they will answer your questions related to penalties, the Ordinance, and Permit fees.

What do I do if I do not have Internet at my home?

You can print out applications from the City of Rocklin Alarm Program link on the website or pick up paper permit applications at the front counter of the Rocklin Police Department. The call also call the above listed telephone number for more information and to answer any questions. The paper applications and checks should be mailed to:

City of Rocklin Alarm Program
P.O. Box 140727
Irving, TX 75014-0727

You may wonder why we have a PO Box in Texas. We have contracted with a company to help the City of Rocklin administer the Alarm Ordinance and this address has been set up specifically for our residents and businesses.